Kidnapping of children

†163. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that kidnapping of children for wrong deeds has become a big business and every year a large number of innocent children are getting lost and the officers do not take it seriously; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government, so that innocent children are not exploited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per records of National Crime Record's Bureau number of cases reported for kidnapping and abduction of children have increased from 3196 in 2004 to 3S18 cases in 2005.

(b) Efforts are being made to reduce the offences against children in the country by implementing relevant legislation like Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, Immoral (Prevention) Trafficking Act and others. The provisions of existing laws are reviewed from time to time to make necessary changes whenever required.

National Commission for Children

164. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Children has started functioning;

(b) whether the Commission has been given enough quasi-judicial powers to deal with child abuse cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, has been set up in March, 2007 as a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 (4 of 2006).

(b) to (d) The Commission while inquiring into a matter has all powers of the Civil Court trying a suit under the CPC and in particular in respect of the following matters:

(i) Summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person from any part of India and examining them on oath;

(ii) Requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(iii) Receiving evidence on affidavits;

(iv) Requisitioning of any public record or copy thereof from any court of office;

(v) Issuing commissions for the examination of witness the documents;

The Commission also has power to forward a case to a Magistrate having jurisdiction to try the same.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

After inquiry the Commission can recommend initiation of proceedings for prosecution or any other action the Commission may deem fit.

Approach the Supreme Court or the High Court concerned for such directions, orders or writs as that Court may deem necessary or recommend to the concerned authority for grant of such interim relief to the victim or his/her family as the Commission may consider necessary.

Opening of Anganwadi Centres

†165. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Anganwadi Centres which were to be opened across the country as per the direction of Supreme Court, alongwith the number and details of such centres functioning at present, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for not opening rest of the centres and by when they would be opened;

(c) the total number of posts lying vacant in Child Development Projects and Anganwadi Centres and the State-wise details thereof; and

(d) by when these vacant posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the Supreme Court Orders of 29th April, 2004 and reiterated in its Order dated 13th December, 2006, the Government of India was directed to "sanction and operationalize a minimum of 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in a phased and even manner starting forthwith and ending December 2008".

In compliance of these directions, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has been expanded twice in the years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

In order to cover all the hitherto uncovered habitations across the country, the States/UTs were requested to undertake a micro level survey having regard to predominantly SC/ST/ Minority habitations and furnish specific requirement of additional Projects/Anganwadi Centres/ Mini-Anganwadi Centres Based on the requirements received from States/ UTs, the 3rd Phase of expansion of the ICDS Scheme is underway. It is expected that these Centres will be operational by December, 2008.

State-wise details of AWCs functioning in the country, as on 30.6.2007, are given in the Statement-I *(See* below).

(c) State-wise details of vacant posts of Child Development Projects Officers (CDPOs), Supervisors and Anganwadi Workers are given in the Statement-ll *(See* below).

(d) All States/Union Territories have been requested to fill up the posts on an urgent basis.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.